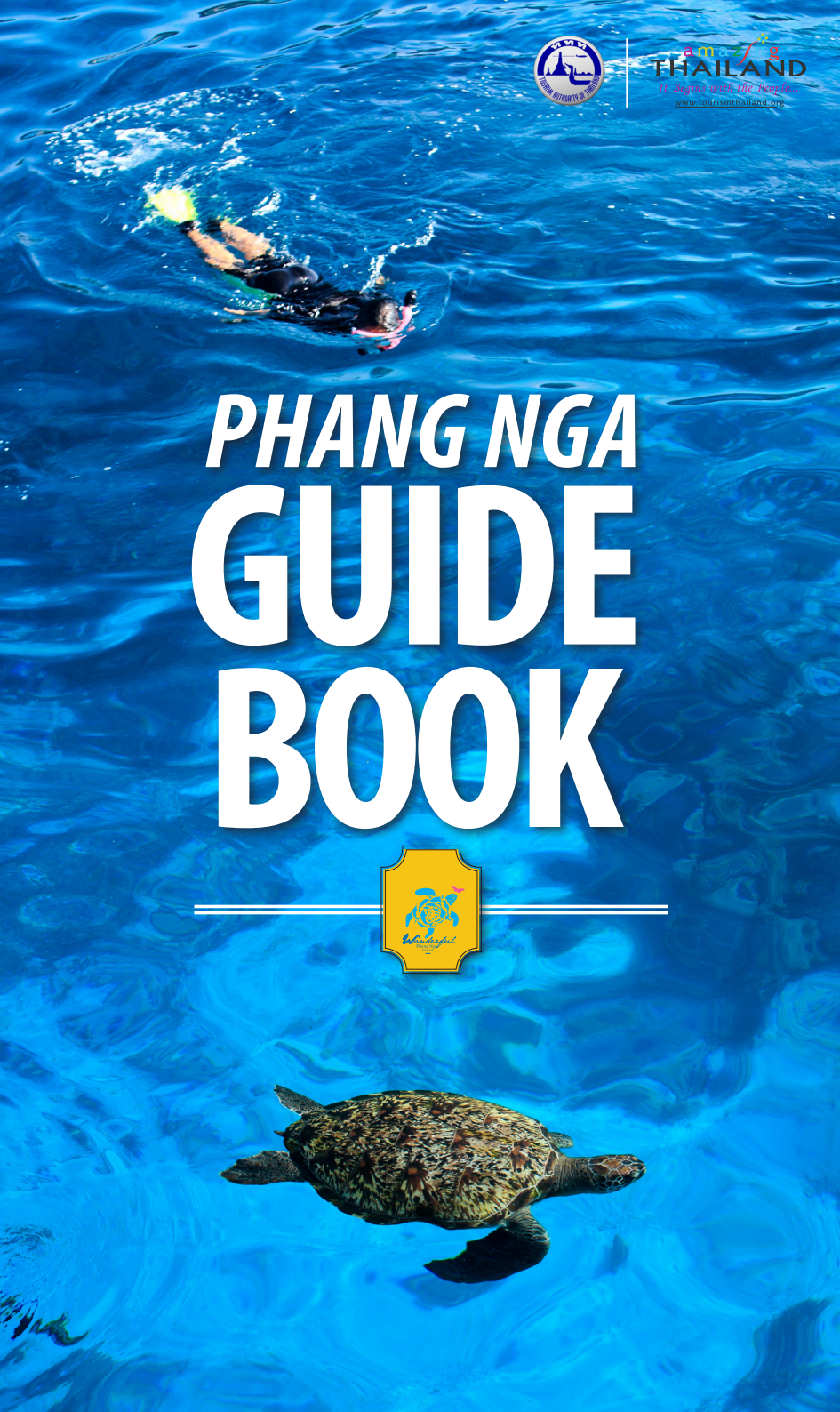
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PHANG NGA
GUIDE
BOOK

PHANG NGA GUIDE BOOK

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PHANG NGA

City of Ten Thousand Million Baht Ores, Villages in the Sea,
Picturesque Caverns, Magnificent Cliffs and
Mountains, Rare Champun Trees, and Abundant Resources.

Phang-nga is geographically covered mostly by mountains and forests, with an area of approximately 4,170.895 square kilometres and is located some 788 kilometres from Bangkok. The province is believed to have formerly been called 'Phu Nga' after the name of a hill 'Khao Nga' or 'Khao Phang-nga', which is located in the heart of the present Phang-nga town. Otherwise, it might have been named 'Phu Nga' to rhyme with 'Phuket'. However, how the name 'Phu Nga' became 'Phang-nga' as it is currently known is assumed to have been eroded by a mis-pronunciation by foreigners who came to purchase tin ore which used to be plentiful in the province. At that time, the name was spelled 'Phunga' or 'Punga' which could be pronounced 'Phu Nga', 'Phang-nga', or 'Phangka'.

Historical Background

According to Chronicles, before the Rattanakosin Period, Phang-nga was a district dependent to Takua Pa City. In the reign of King Rama I the Great of the Rattanakosin Period, it was upgraded to be of the same status as Takua Pa and Takua Thung and was transferred from the Harbour Department to be administered by the Defense Department. King Rama III, in wishing to restore outpost towns on the west coast that were attacked by Burmese troops, appointed a civil officer to rule the city and had it dependent directly to Bangkok. Phraya Borirakphuthon (Saeng Na Nakhon) was appointed the first ruler of Phang-nga in 1840. Later, Takua Thung was made a district dependent to Phang-nga. In the reign of King Rama VII, there was an economic recession, Takua Pa was made another district administered by Phang-nga province by the resolution of the Governors' Meeting of the Phuket Circle of 1931. Originally, the government centre of Phang-nga was located at Ban Chai Khai. Then, a city hall was constructed at Ban Thai Chang before a new one took shape near Tham Phung Chang and has stood there since 1972 until the present.

Boundary

North
borders Ranong and Surat Thani provinces.

South
borders Phuket province and the Andaman Sea.

East
borders Surat Thani and Krabi provinces.

West
borders the Andaman Sea.

Phang-nga is administratively divided into 8 districts; namely, Amphoe Mueang Phang-nga, Amphoe Khura Buri, Amphoe Thap Put, Amphoe Kapong, Amphoe Takua Thung, Amphoe Takua Pa, Amphoe Thai Mueang, and Amphoe Ko Yao.

Distances from Amphoe Mueang Phang-nga to Other Districts

Amphoe Takua Thung
15 kilometres

Amphoe Thap Put
26 kilometres

Amphoe Kapong
40 kilometres

Amphoe Thai Mueang
56 kilometres

Amphoe Takua Pa
57 kilometres

Amphoe Khura Buri
125 kilometres

Amphoe Ko Yao
138 kilometres

Distances from Phang-nga to Nearby Provinces

Krabi
86 kilometres

Phuket
94 kilometres

Surat Thani
155 kilometres

Ranong
231 kilometres

Transportation

Phang-nga is accessible by several routes, as follows:

By Car,

there are 3 routes:

Route 1: From Bangkok, take Highway No. 4 via Prachuap Khiri Khan, Chumphon, Ranong and enter Phang-nga, a total distance of 788 kilometres, and taking 12 hours.

Route 2: From Bangkok, take Highway No. 4 to Chumphon and continue on Highway No. 41 via Amphoe Tha Chang, Surat Thani, turn right into Highway No. 401 to Amphoe Ban Ta Khun, Surat Thani, then, turn into Highway No. 415 via Amphoe Thap Put to Phang-nga.

By Bus,

the Transport Company Limited operates daily air - conditioned buses on the Bangkok – Phang-nga route from the Bangkok Southern Bus Terminal on Borommaratchachonnani Road, taking approximately 10 hours. For further details, please call Tel. 0 2894 6122 There are also buses operated by a private company which is Lignite Tour Company Limited, 0 2894 6151 Phang-nga Bus Terminal, Phetchakasem Road, (behind the Siam City Bank), Tel. 0 7641 2300, 0 7641 2014, or visit www.transport.co.th.

By Train,

the State Railway of Thailand operates regular trains to Surat Thani Railway Station, Amphoe Phunphin, Surat Thani. Visitors have to connect to a bus for 2 hours to Phang-nga. For further information, please call the Bangkok Railway Station (Hua Lamphong) at Tel. 1690, 0 2220 4334, 0 2220 4444, (Reservations can be made on the phone at least 3 days in advance but not exceeding 60 days), or visit www.railway.co.th.

By Plane,

there is no direct flight to Phang-nga. Visitors may fly to Phuket and connect to a bus to Phang-nga, a distance of 58 kilometres. For further details, please contact the following airlines:

Thai Airways International, Tel. 0 2356 1111; Phuket Office: Tel. 0 7621 1195, or visit www.thaiairways.com.

- Bangkok Airways, Tel. 0 2270 6699, 1771, www.bangkokair.com.
- Thai Air Asia, Tel. 0 2515 9999 www.airasia.com.
- Nok Air, Tel. 1318, 0 2627 2000, www.nokair.com
- One-Two-Go, Tel. 1126, 0 2229 4260, www.flyorientthai.com

In addition, from Phang-nga, there are also buses to various places and provinces including Phuket, Krabi, Trang, Phatthalung, Amphoe Hat Yai, Songkhla, Satun, Amphoe Betong, Pattani, Narathiwat, Amphoe Su-ngai Kolok, Samui, Amphoe Ban Ta Khun, and Amphoe Phunphin, Surat Thani. From Amphoe Mueang Phang-nga, there are regular buses running from the market to the Customs Office Pier where boats are available to Ao Phang-nga National Park.

ATTRACTIONS

AMPHOE MUEANG PHANG NGA

อำเภอเมืองพังงา

Phang-nga City
(เมืองพังงา)

is a simple and peaceful provincial district with magnificent mountains along the way. These mountains are covered with verdant green forests, lending the town a pleasantly cool atmosphere. It has clean streets with low – standing buildings that still reveal the beauty of natural scenery, ideal for visitors who prefer a simple vacation among nature. Before reaching the provincial town of Phang-nga, an elephant–shaped mount known as 'Khao Rup Chang', which is the province's symbol, can be seen from the distance.

Somdej Phra Srinagarindra Park
(สวนสมเด็จพระศรีนครินทร์)

is located on Khao Chang Road off Phetchakasem Road, diagonally opposite the City Hall. It is a scenic park where a bronze standing statue of the late Princess Mother is situated in the garden. People usually come here in the late afternoon for exercise and relaxation.

Tham Ruesi Sawan and Tham Luk Suea
(ถ้ำฤๅษีสวรรค์และถ้ำลูกเสือ)

are located inside the Somdej Phra Srinagarindra Park. Tham Ruesi Sawan is in front of Tham Luk Suea. It is cool inside the cave, with stalagmites and stalactites and a clear stream running through. Tham Ruesi Sawan can be walked through from the front to the back before continuing on to Tham Luk Suea, a small cave where there are some stalagmites and stalactites and a herd of monkeys living in the front.

Tham Phung Chang
(ถ้ำพุงช้าง)

is located within the precincts of Wat Prachim Khet, behind the City Hall on Phetchakasem Road. It is a large grotto in the heart of Khao Chang. The part that is called "Phung Chang" or "elephant's belly" features a wonder of nature in the form of picturesque stalagmites and stalactites. Visiting Tham Phung Chang is a soft adventure tourism activity. Visitors will have to wade through water and ride a raft and canoe in order to get inside to admire the naturally-created stalagmites and stalactites, which are of various amazing shapes not to be seen anywhere else. Among the magnificent formations are the ones that feature hundreds of elephants walking one after another to form a circle, an elephant sitting under the Chatra umbrella, and a golden ladder that sparkles in the light. The air inside is cool and well-ventilated. Visiting Tham Phung Chang will take approximately 1½ hours. Interested visitors may contact the Thong Thae Sea Canoe Company Limited at Tel. 0 7626 4320, 0 7641 2292, 08 6683 6844.

Sa Nang Manora Forest Park
(วนอุทยานสระนางมโนราห์)

is situated inside the Khao Thoi Nang Hong National Forest Reserve area in Tambon Nop Pring, covering a total area of 180 rai. It has a topography of limestone mountains lying in the Northeast – South direction covered with an evergreen or rain forest. The Park is very shady with large trees and a stream flowing by from the headwater forest on the mountain ridge down the valley to the plains. The different altitudes of the landscape result in many small waterfalls. Many economic plants are grown here; such as, Malacca teak, ironwood, and Champa Pa – Magnolia elegans. Its fauna include Sumatran serow, monkey, langur, bear, tiger fish, soro brook carp, and soft-shelled turtle. The name of the forest park, 'Sa Nang Manora', is based on a folk tale that 7 Kinnari sisters flew from Kailasa Mount to swim in the pond here and the youngest sister, Manora, was caught by the loop of Hunter Bun who took her to offer to Prince Suthon.

Interesting Attractions within the Forest Park:

Namtok Sa Nang Manora **(น้ำตกสระนางมโนราห์)**
features a medium–sized pond and a small waterfall with water all year round.

Tham Plueak Hoi **(ถ้ำเปลือกหอย)**
is a medium–sized cave located 1,300 metres from the Park's headquarters. It houses a shell cemetery with a sloping trail for an easy walk.

Tham Khi Khangkhao **(ถ้ำขี้ค้างคาว)** is located 2,300 metres from the Park's headquarters and of a larger size than Tham Plueak Hoi. It is a habitat of a large flock of bats, with a not so steep trail suitable for walking.

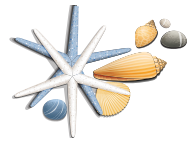
Tham Kaeo **(ถ้ำแก้ว)** is 3 kilometres from the Park's headquarters and 1,500 metres from Tham Khi Khangkhao, but more spacious. It houses beautiful stalactites and stalagmites but a guide will be needed for the walk.In addition, the Park also provides a nature trail with natural interpretation signs of its flora and fauna along a distance of 2 kilometres, taking approximately 1 hour. No guide is needed.

Accommodation: there is no accommodation available but a camping area is provided. However, visitors have to bring their own tents, sleeping gear, and camping equipment. There is a restaurant in the park, which is open during 9.00 a.m. – 4.30 p.m. For more details, please contact the Head of Sa Nang Manora Forest Park, Tambon Nop Pring, Amphoe Mueang Phang-nga, Phang-nga 82000.

To get there: from Phang-nga, take Highway No. 4 (Phetchakasem Road) via Tambon Nop Pring. The Park is approximately 4 kilometres from the provincial town. Turn right for another 4 kilometres at the direction sign.

Bang Phat
(ชุมชนบ้านบางพัฒน์)

Bang Phat is a small fishing community located in Bangtoey District. Equipped with a homestay accommodation, visitors are welcome to learn about the Muslim way of life, their methods of fishing, mangrove forest preservation, seafood processing in different forms including shrimp paste, dried shrimp and salted fish. You will also enjoy freshly caught fish, shrimp and clams prepared in local style. But the highlight of the stay is the scenic boat ride around Bang Phat Community and other routes including Phang-Nga Bay, Khao Tapu, Khao Ping Gan, Tham Lod and Panyi Island.



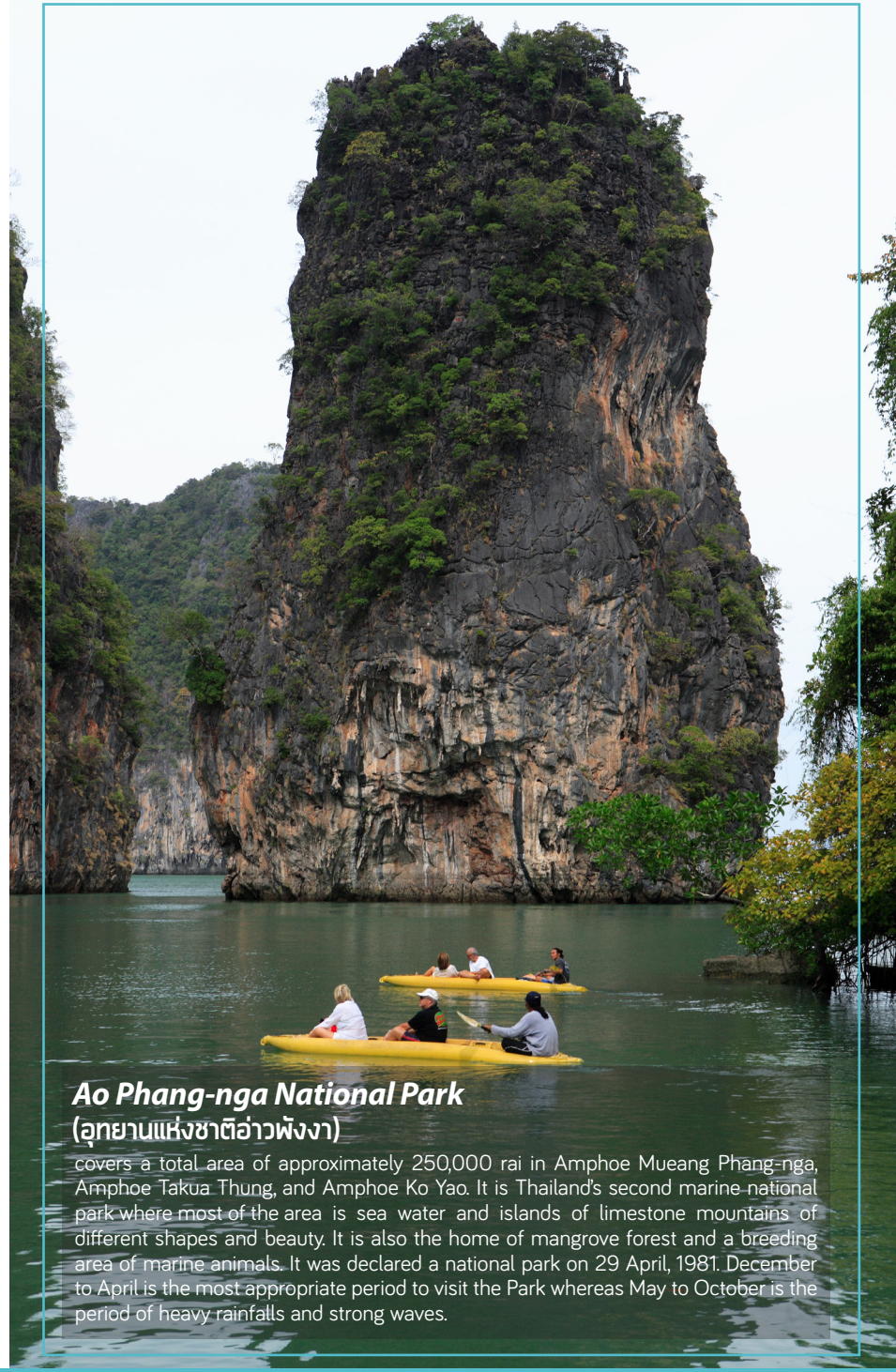
Ton Pariwat Wildlife Sanctuary
(เขตรักษาพันธุ์สัตว์ป่าโตนปริวรรต)

is located in Tambon Song Phraek and covers a total area of 100,000 rai of shady flora. It also contains Namtok Ton Pariwat or known among the locals as "Namtok Song Phraek" which is 100 metres from the Sanctuary's headquarters. The waterfall is not very high with a pond down below where there is still some deposits of ores. In the rainy season, the water gushes down. The Sanctuary provides a 2-kilometres nature trail with Bua Phut – Rafflesia kerrii, a plant species with the world's largest flower of approximately 80 centimetres in diameter, along the route. The plant grows as a parasite on the root of a vine known as Yan Kai Tom. Its flower has 5 reddish brown petals. It is rare and to be found only in a fertile forest. It blooms towards the end of the rainy season around October. Along the route, there are traces of old mines, bird-watching spots that indicate the fertility of the forest, Namtok Hin Phoeng which is a watershed, etc. A guide is needed for trekking along the trail, which takes about 1 hour. At present, a package tour is offered by travel agencies to include trekking on an elephant's back through intact forests along both sides of the stream, and rafting for fun and excitement for adventure lovers, which takes about 45 minutes and available throughout the year.

Accommodation: 2 bungalows are available for visitors as well as a camping site, but visitors are required to bring their own tents. For more information, please contact Ton Pariwat Wildlife Sanctuary, Mu 2 Tambon Song Phraek, Amphoe Mueang, Phang-nga 82000.

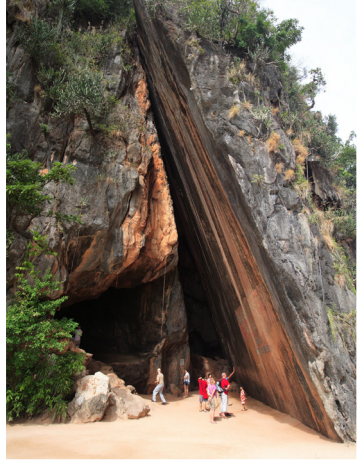
To Get There:

By car, the Sanctuary is approximately 5 kilometres from the provincial town. Turn right for some 10 kilometres off Highway No. 4 at Ban Song Phraek. By bus, take the Bangkok – Phang-nga bus and get off at the Phang-nga Bus Terminal and connect to the Sanctuary's transfer service, which will be provided by appointment at Tel. 0 7648 0543, 0 2561 4835



Ao Phang-nga National Park
(อุทยานแห่งชาติอ่าวพังงา)

covers a total area of approximately 250,000 rai in Amphoe Mueang Phang-nga, Amphoe Takua Thung, and Amphoe Ko Yao. It is Thailand's second marine national park where most of the area is sea water and islands of limestone mountains of different shapes and beauty. It is also the home of mangrove forest and a breeding area of marine animals. It was declared a national park on 29 April, 1981. December to April is the most appropriate period to visit the Park whereas May to October is the period of heavy rainfalls and strong waves.



Interesting Attractions within the National Park:

Ko Panyi **(เกาะปันหยี)** is a small island with a plain of approximately 1 rai and 200 houses. Most of the dwellers are Thai Muslims, earning their living by fishing and selling souvenirs and food to visitors. There is a school and public health centre, as well.

Khao Ma Chu **(เขาหมาจู)** is on the way to Ko Panyi and looks similar to a dog, with a head, body, and a hairy tail.

Khao Khian or Rock Paintings **(เขาเขียนหรือภาพเขียนสี)** is on the way to Ko Panyi and houses rock paintings on the cliff of various animals believed to have been painted by sailors who moored their ships here to take shelter from the monsoon. According to the Fine Arts Department, the paintings are at least 3,000 years old.

Tham Lot **(ถ้ำลอด)** is a mountain similar to Ko Thalu. The opening of the cave is approximately 50 metres wide and 40 metres high, through which a small boat can sail to the other end of the cave. There are weird stalactites on the cave's ceiling.

Khao Phing Kan **(เขาพิงกัน)** is an island on the beach that derives its name from the fact that a stone mountain split in two and the smaller part slid down, so that its base was buried into the soil while the top parts still lean against each other. The scenery behind Khao Phing Kan is very picturesque with "Khao Tapu", otherwise known as "James Bond Island" is seen in the sea in the background, looking like a nail – Tapu – stuck into the water. Admission for climbing Khao Phing Kan is 500 Baht for adults and 300 Baht for children.

Ko Hong **(เกาะห้อง)** features undulated hills hugging the sea, looking like a large chamber with 2 doors and housing beautiful coral reefs.

Ko Phanak **(เกาะพนัก)** is a beautiful island with stalactite and stalagmite caves and a small tiered waterfall inside.

To Get to Ao Phang-nga National Park:
By car, the Park is approximately 8 kilometres from the provincial town. Take Highway No. 4 and turn left for some 4 kilometres into Highway No. 4144 until reaching the Customs Checkpoint Pier. A boat for rent is available from the pier. Otherwise, take a Song Thaeo from the provincial town to the Customs Checkpoint Pier. This is available daily.

Boat Cruises in Ao Phang-nga is available from various piers, as follows:

- Customs Checkpoint Pier, near the Phang-nga Bay Resort, boats of different sizes are available.

Boat for 1 - 8 persons	1,200 Baht
Boat for 8 - 20 persons	2,000 Baht
Boat for 20 - 40 persons	4,500 Baht

The cruise takes about 3 - 4 hours.

- Ao Phang-nga National Park Pier provides boats of many sizes.

Boat for 2 - 6 persons	1,000 Baht
Boat for 7 - 12 persons	1,500 Baht
Boat for 35 - 45 persons	4,500 Baht

The Cruise takes about 3 - 4 hours.

- Surakun or Kasom Pier, Amphoe Takua Thung, provides boats for rent of different sizes.

Boat for 1 - 10 persons	1,200 Baht
Boat for 1 - 20 persons	1,500 Baht
Boat for 1 - 30 persons	1,600 Baht

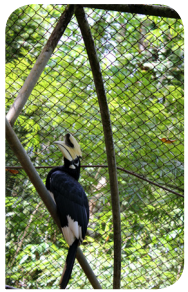
Note: Boat rental rates are changeable.

Accommodation: The Park provides 8 bungalows for visitors.

For 4 persons	700 Baht
For 8 persons	1,000 Baht
For 10 - 12 persons	1,200 Baht
For 15 Persons	1,500 Baht

In case visitors bring their own tents, a fee of 20 Baht each will be charged for showering.

For further details, please contact the Ao Phang-nga National Park, 80 Mu 1 Tambon Ko Panyi, Amphoe Mueang Phang-nga, Phang-nga 82000, Tel. 0 7641 1136, 0 7641 2188, or National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation Department Tel. 0 2562 0760, or visit www.dnp.go.th.



Phang-nga Wildlife Breeding Centre
(สถานีเพาะเลี้ยงสัตว์ป่าจังหวัดพังงา)

(diagonally opposite the Telephone Organisation of Phang-nga) near Km. 33 on Phetchakasem Road, Tambon Tak Daet. The Centre breeds rare and endangered species of wild animals such as red-whiskered bulbul, Oriental pied hornbill, barn owl, brahminy kite, golden pheasant, green peafowl, and Indian peafowl. There is also Sumatran serow, porcupine, gibbon, monkey, banded langur, bear, and duck. It is open daily during 8.30 a.m. – 4.30 p.m. Admission is free. A group visit with a guide is available by written appointment addressed to the Head of the Phang-nga Wildlife Breeding Centre. For further details, please contact the Phang-nga Wildlife Breeding Centre at Tel. 0 7648 1058.

Dairy Hut Farm
(แดรี่ฮัท ฟาร์ม)

This vintage farm set on 17 rais of land is a destination where tourists traveling to Phang-Nga can stop over and enjoy fun farm activities like bottle-feeding calves, feeding lamb, riding horses or riding the Ferris wheel. There is also a souvenir shop, Italian Gelato shop and rustic restaurant, all within a beautiful mountain setting. Admission fee is 60 baht per person and the farm is opened from Mondays to Fridays from 10.00 - 19.00 hrs. and Saturdays, Sundays and holidays from 09.00 - 19.00 hrs. For more information, please call tel: 0 7648 1350, 081 - 0849449 or visit www.dairyhutfarm.com

ATTRACTIONS

AMPHOE KHURA BURI

อำเภอคุระบุรี

Mu Ko Similan National Park

(อุทยานแห่งชาติหมู่เกาะสิมิลัน)

covers a total area of 80,000 rai in Tambon Ko Phra Thong and was proclaimed a national park on 1 September, 1982. The word "Similan" is in Yawi or Malay, meaning Kao or nine, referring to an archipelago of 9 islands. Similan is a small archipelago in the Andaman Sea comprising a total of 9 islands lying in the North – South direction, including Ko Huyong, Ko Payang, Ko Payan, Ko Miang (twin islands), Ko Payu, Ko Hua Kalok (Ko Bon), Ko Similan, and Ko Ba-ngu. The Park's headquarters is located on Ko Miang where freshwater is available. This archipelago is renowned for its on land and underwater beauty with an abundance of marine life. It offers ideal spots for both snorkelling and scuba diving where coral reefs as well as rare and colourful fish are to be admired such as manta ray, whale, dolphin, Moray eel, clown fish, etc. The most suitable period for visiting the national park is between November and April. May to October is the season of the Southwest Monsoon when the area is very windy and wavy and dangerous for sea transportation. During this period, the islands will be closed for the nature to restore itself.

Interesting Attractions within the National Park:

Ko Similan or Ko Paet **(เกาะสิมิลันหรือเกาะแปด)** is the largest island in the Similan Archipelago. It features a horse-shoe curve bay with white powdery beach and clear sea ideal for swimming. There are beautiful coral reefs underwater including staghorn coral, leaf coral, brain coral, large mushroom coral, sea fan, lobster, and various kinds of breathtakingly colourful fish. This island offers ideal spots for both snorkelling and scuba diving. To the north, there are large rocks of weird shapes such as a boot or head of Donald Duck and a sailboat rock where a panoramic view of the sea can be admired.

Ko Ba-ngu or Ko Kao **(เกาะบางูหรือเกาะเก้า)** is a small island with boulders of various shapes, especially at the diving spot 'Christmas Point' which is a large beautiful submerged rock that expands for a wide area. There are intact coral reefs and sea fans in the area, which also serves as a habitat for several kinds of fish such as ribbon eels, silvertip shark, brown spotted grouper, sand goby, mantis shrimp, etc.

Ko Hua Kalok – Hin Pusa or Ko Chet **(เกาะหัวกะโหลก–หินปูซ่าหรือเกาะเจ็ด)** looks like a skull – Kalok in Thai – and offers the underwater beauty of an undersea valley inhabited by soft corals, colourful sea fans, and schools of fish, and is where a Manta ray or whale shark can be mostly found in the archipelago.

Ko Huyong or Ko Nueng **(เกาะหูยงหรือเกาะหนึ่ง)** is a large island with the whitest and longest beach among the 9 islands. Sea turtles usually come to lay their eggs here during November and February as attested by small caterpillar track-like traces left on the beach.

Ko Miang or Ko Si **(เกาะเมี่ยงหรือเกาะสี่)** is the second largest island next to Similan and is where the Park's headquarters is situated and freshwater is available. Ko Si houses white powdery sands and crystal clear sea, and is a habitat of rare animals like the hairy leg mountain crab that has a red body, bluish black claws, and cries like a cock, to be seen in the evening when they come out to find food; Nicobar pigeon, a large endemic bird species of the same family as the rock pigeon, with beautiful colours and patterns on their body, to be seen along the beach or at food shops in front of the Tourist Service Centre; and hermit crabs, that are abundant in both large and small sizes.

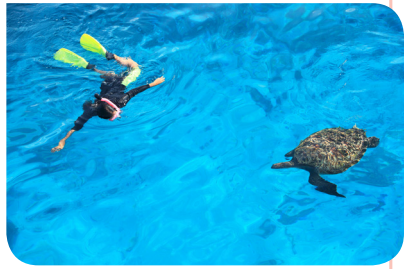
To get to Thap Lamu Pier :

- From Bangkok, take the Bangkok – Ranong or Bangkok – Surat Thani bus and get off at the Lam Kaen T-junction, Amphoe Thai Mueang. Then, take a motorcycle to Thap Lamu Pier.
- From Phang-nga Bus Terminal, take the Phang-nga – Phuket bus, Krabi – Phuket bus or Trang – Phuket bus and get off at Klokkloy Bus Terminal then take Phuket – Takuapa or Phuket - Surat Thani bus and get off at Lam Kaen T-junction. Then, take a motorcycle to the pier.
- From Amphoe Thai Mueang, take a Song Thaeo minibus running on the Thai Mueang – Thap Lamu route, Phuket – Takua Pa bus, or Phuket - Surat Thani bus from the market on Phetchakasem Road and get off at Lam Kaen T-junction. Then, take a motorcycle to the pier.

Accommodation: The Park provides 5 bungalows, each with 5 rooms, each room for 2 persons, at 1,000 – 2,000 Baht. A row house with 20 rooms is also available, each room for 2 persons, at 2,000 Baht. A tent for rent is provided at 450 Baht each. A camping site fee of 50 Baht / night is required for visitors who bring their own tents. Admission to the national park is 400 Baht for adults and 200 Baht for children. For more details, please contact Mu Ko Similan National Park, 93 Mu 5 Ban Thap Lamu, Tambon Lam Kaen, Amphoe Thai Mueang, Phang-nga 82210, Tel. 0 7642 1365, On land Office: Tel. 0 7659 5045, or National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation Department
Tel. 0 2562 0760 or www.dnp.go.th.

To Get to Mu Ko Similan National Park:

- Thap Lamu Pier, Amphoe Thai Mueang, 70 kilometres from the provincial town along the Phang-nga – Takua Pa route at Km.51-52, is the nearest pier to the national park with a distance of approximately 40 kilometres. From Thap Lamu Pier, it takes 3 - 4 hours to reach Mu Ko Similan. A speed boat for rent is also available in various sizes. The one for 30 persons charges about 38,000 Baht and for 40 persons charges between 40,000 - 45,000 Baht. Near the Thap Lamu Pier, there is an office of the national park. For more details, please contact Mu Ko Similan National Park, 93 Mu 5 Ban Thap Lamu, Tambon Lam Kaen, Amphoe Thai Mueang, Phang-nga 82210, Tel. 0 7645 3272
or National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation Department
Tel. 0 2562 0760 or www.dnp.go.th.



Ko Tachai (เกาะตาชัย)

One of the Similan's famous islands, Tachai is beautiful, unspoiled and offers the most breathtaking views. The turquoise water and soft, white sands are its trademark; and in the bushes, you can find hairy-legged crabs hiding quietly. There is also a viewpoint on the other side of the island to trek to.

Some of the most popular activities here include snorkeling, sun bathing, trekking along nature trails and more. The park is opened to the public between October 15 to May 15 of each year. For more information, please contact the Similan Marine National Park at 0 7645 3272 or log onto www.dnp.go.th.

Getting there: Speed boats for hire are available at Thap Lamu Pier and Baan Nam Khem Pier. The journey takes about one hour and a half.

Mu Ko Surin National Park
(อุทยานแห่งชาติหมู่เกาะสุรินทร์)

is an archipelago in the Andaman Sea located approximately 70 kilometres off the western shore. It is next to the Thailand – Myanmar border, covering a total area of approximately 84,375 rai out of which about 20,594 rai is an on land area. The Park comprises 5 major islands; namely, Ko Surin Nuea, Ko Surin Tai, Ko Khai (Ko Torinla), Ko Klang (Ko Pachumba), and Ko Ri (Ko Satok). It was proclaimed a national park on 9 July, 1981, and includes islands with beautiful coral reefs in the shallows and various schools of fish of different colours.

It offers ideal spots for snorkelling to admire coral reefs in the shallows, especially at Ko Torinla and Ko Pachumba. An ideal spot for scuba diving is the Richeliu Rock, 10 kilometres to the southwest of Ko Surin. This is a site of fertile undersea nature, habitat of various kinds of fish, colourful corals, and where whale shark, the kind Giant of the Sea, is frequently encountered. The most suitable period for a visit is between November and April whereas from May to October is the period of monsoons when there are heavy rainfalls and windy wavy sea.

Interesting Attractions within the National Park:

Ko Surin Nuea and Ko Surin Tai
(เกาะสุรินทร์เหนือและเกาะสุรินทร์ใต้)

are two attached islands separated by a water channel. There are both large and small bays scattered around the islands, all with distinctively beautiful beaches and sea water. Ko Surin Nuea is where the Park's Ranger Station is located. There is a Tourist Service Centre, bungalows, camping site, and long-tailed boats for rent to visit various islands.

Ao Chong Khat **(อ่าวช่องขาด)** is located south of Ko Surin Nuea and has a camping spot on a clean white sandy beach suitable for swimming. There are also coral reefs and various kinds of fish such as the colourful parrotfish and wrasse.

Ao Mae Yai **(อ่าวแม่ยาย)** is also south of Ko Surin Nuea and offers a bay of calm sea. It is the largest island in the Surin Archipelago with coral reefs in the shallows.

Ao Sai En **(อ่าวไทรเอน)** is situated east of Ko Surin Nuea, with boat people known as Chao Le or Mogen People living their simple and folk way of life. They believe in Indian icons carved out of wood which are regarded as their sacred items. During the full moon day's period of April every year, they will gather to pay respect to their revered spirits for 3 days.

Ao Luek **(อ่าวลึก)** is to the southeast of Ko Surin Nuea and offers coral reefs in the shallows, seaweeds, anemones, sea fans, schools of clown fish, and various kinds of colourful fish.

Ao Chak **(อ่าวจาก)** is to the north of Ko Surin Nuea and offers a white powdery beach and snorkelling spot to admire coral reefs in the shallows.

Ao Mai Ngam **(อ่าวไม้งาม)** is to the west of Ko Surin Nuea next to the headquarters bay. It is a large bay with a long curving beach, beautiful coral reefs, and various kinds of colourful fish. Moreover, there is Ao Mai Ngam Nature Trail through an evergreen forest along the beach, with nature interpretation signs along the 2-kilometres route, taking approximately 1 hour. Along the route, various species of wildlife and flora such as mouse deer, flying lemur, and rare birds like Nicobar pigeon and pied imperial pigeon can be seen.

Cr : Verasak Pratakviriya

Ao Bon **(อ่าวบอน)** is located east of Ko Surin Tai and inhabited by another group of the Mogen or Chao Le people.

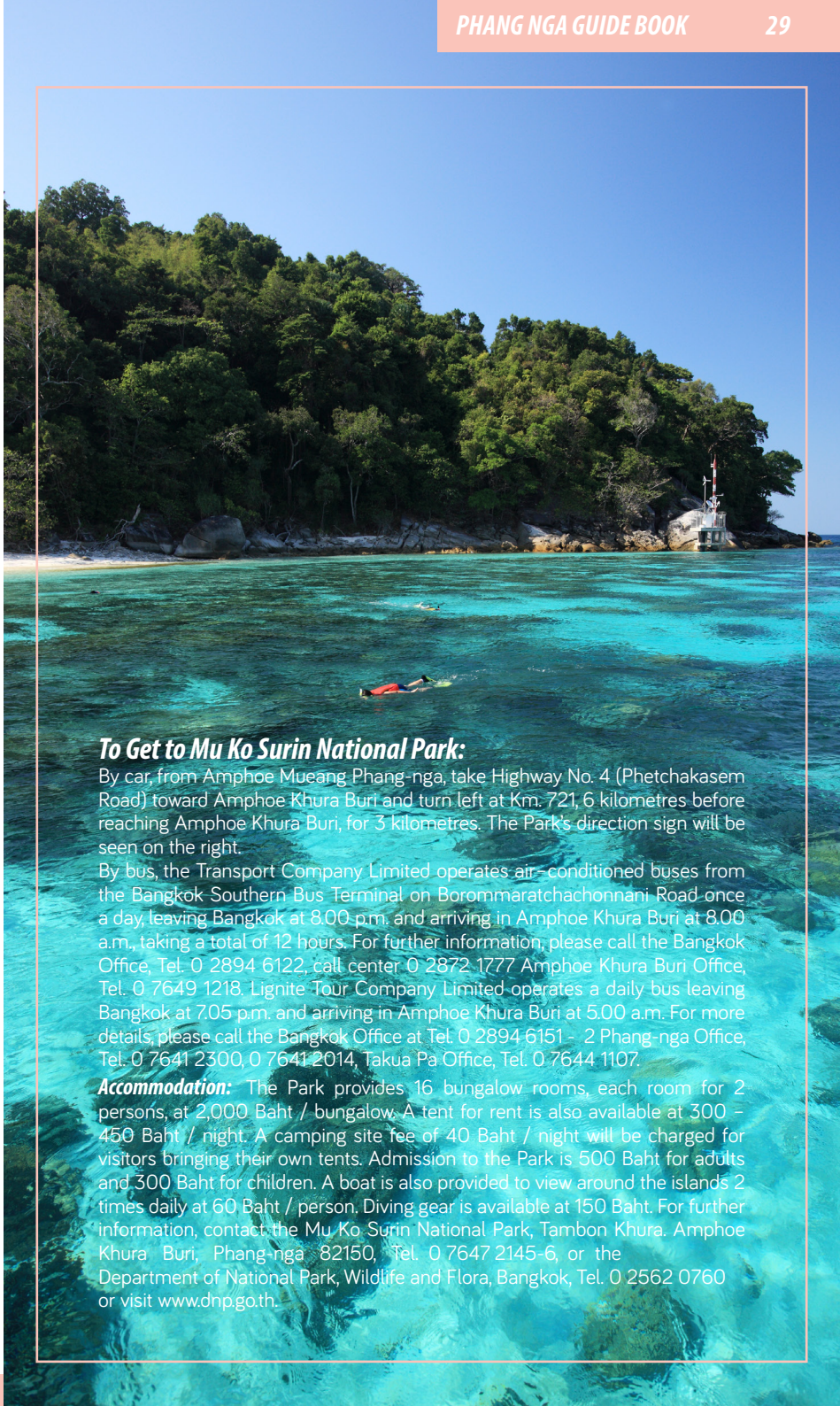
Ao Tao **(อ่าวเต่า)** is located east of Ko Surin Tai and a habitat of a large number of sea turtles near the coral reefs. It offers a snorkelling spot to view soft corals and sea fans.

Ao Phak Kat **(อ่าวผักกาด)** is to the south of Ko Surin Tai and offers a snorkelling spot to view staghorn coral reefs, and also a scuba diving spot.

Ao Suthep **(อ่าวสุเทพ)** is to the north of Ko Surin Tai and offers a snorkelling spot to view beautiful coral reefs.

Ko Pachumba or Ko Klang
(เกาะปาจุมบาหรือเกาะกลาง) is situated north of Ko Surin Tai and offers clean white powdery beaches and intact coral reefs where Manta rays, various species of fish, and lobsters which are rare to be seen are so abundant that the bay is called Ao Mangkon after the Thai name of lobster, Kung Mangkon. It is also a spawning site for sea turtles.

Ko Khai or Ko Torinla
(เกาะไข่หรือเกาะตอรินลา)
is south of Ko Surin Tai. To the east of the island, there is a very long stretch of coral reefs that are still in perfect condition and ideal for scuba diving.



To Get to Mu Ko Surin National Park:

By car, from Amphoe Mueang Phang-nga, take Highway No. 4 (Phetchakasem Road) toward Amphoe Khura Buri and turn left at Km. 721, 6 kilometres before reaching Amphoe Khura Buri, for 3 kilometres. The Park's direction sign will be seen on the right.

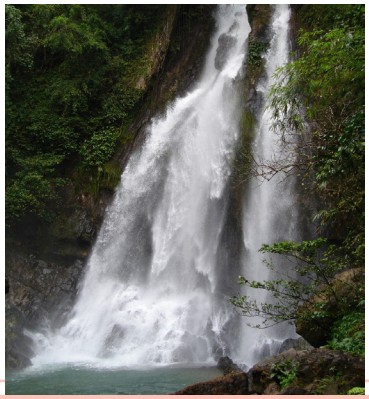
By bus, the Transport Company Limited operates air-conditioned buses from the Bangkok Southern Bus Terminal on Borommaratchachonnani Road once a day, leaving Bangkok at 8.00 p.m. and arriving in Amphoe Khura Buri at 8.00 a.m., taking a total of 12 hours. For further information, please call the Bangkok Office, Tel. 0 2894 6122, call center 0 2872 1777 Amphoe Khura Buri Office, Tel. 0 7649 1218. Lignite Tour Company Limited operates a daily bus leaving Bangkok at 7.05 p.m. and arriving in Amphoe Khura Buri at 5.00 a.m. For more details, please call the Bangkok Office at Tel. 0 2894 6151 - 2 Phang-nga Office, Tel. 0 7641 2300, 0 7641 2014, Takua Pa Office, Tel. 0 7644 1107.

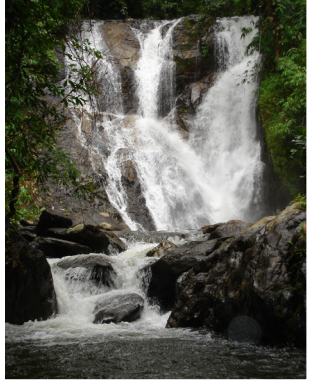
Accommodation: The Park provides 16 bungalow rooms, each room for 2 persons, at 2,000 Baht / bungalow. A tent for rent is also available at 300 – 450 Baht / night. A camping site fee of 40 Baht / night will be charged for visitors bringing their own tents. Admission to the Park is 500 Baht for adults and 300 Baht for children. A boat is also provided to view around the islands 2 times daily at 60 Baht / person. Diving gear is available at 150 Baht. For further information, contact the Mu Ko Surin National Park, Tambon Khura. Amphoe Khura Buri, Phang-nga 82150, Tel. 0 7647 2145-6, or the Department of National Park, Wildlife and Flora, Bangkok, Tel. 0 2562 0760 or visit www.dnp.go.th.

Si Phang-nga National Park
(อุทยานแห่งชาติศรีพังงา)

covers a total area of 153,800 rai of the Khao Nom Sao Range, which is a national forest reserve located in Amphoe Khura Buri and Amphoe Takua Pa. It features intact moist evergreen forests. Major flora include Yang – Dipterocarpus alatus, Takhian Thong – Hopea odorata, various species of palms, Kapho Nu – Licuala triphylla, staghorn fern, orchids like lady's slippers and Ueang Ngoen Luang – Dendrobium formosum.

It also serves as a natural habitat for different species of fauna and birds such as Malayan tapir, Sumatran serow, banteng, barking deer, tiger, hornbill, Asian fairy-bluebird, helmeted hornbill, soro brook carp, Blyth's giant frog, etc. It has a longer rainy season than summer, with rainfalls almost all year round during May and December. It was declared a national park on 16 April, 1988, and established as a park in honour of His Majesty the King on the Auspicious Occasion of His Majesty's Fifth Cycle Birthday Anniversary.





Interesting Attractions within the National Park:

Namtok Tamnang **(น้ำตกตำหนัง)** is 1 kilometres from the Park's headquarters and 500 metres from the parking area. It cascades down a cliff of 63 metres high with water running all year, especially in the rainy season. The surrounding area is very shady with large trees; and the stream is inhabited by soro brook carp. There is a nature trail of 2 kilometres along a steep route, which takes approximately 3 hours. A guide is needed.

Namtok Ton Ton Toei **(น้ำตกโตนต้นเตย)** is straight along the left branch road before reaching the checkpoint at the entrance to the Park's headquarters. The waterfall cascades down a stone cliff of 45 metres high. The head of the waterfall is accessible by a 1-kilometre route along which there are viewpoints to admire the Park's fertile forests and mountains. A return trip on foot takes approximately 3 hours. It is recommended to stop for a rest at Namtok Ton Ton Toei Noi which is about 10 metres along the route. A guide is needed.

Namtok Ton Ton Sai **(น้ำตกโตนต้นไทร)** cascades down a boulder of 20 metres high. Its surrounding area is covered with Sai or banyan trees and beautiful rocks. It is accessible by the same route leading to Namtok Ton Ton Toei but is located some 500 metres beyond. In addition, there are other tourist attractions of interest such as

Namtok Suan Mai **(น้ำตกสวนใหม่),** a cool and shady waterfall with water all year;

Thung Chali **(ทุ่งชาลี),** a vast field of approximately 2,000 rai that serves as a feeding ground for various kinds of fauna and home of a large number of birds – camping is allowed here but visitors will have to bring their own tents;

Saphan Phra Aram **(สะพานพระอร่าม),** a stone bridge of 25 metres long constructed across the river by tin miners in former times, only traces of the stone pillars remain at present.

Accommodation:

No bungalows are provided but a camping site and welfare shop are available. Visitors are required to bring their own tents. The campsite fee is 30 Baht / night. For further details, please contact the Si Phang-nga National Park, 65/16 Tambon Bang Wan, Amphoe Khura Buri, Phang-nga, Tel. 08 9473 5007, 08 6952 5246, or visit www.sriphangnga.4mg.com.

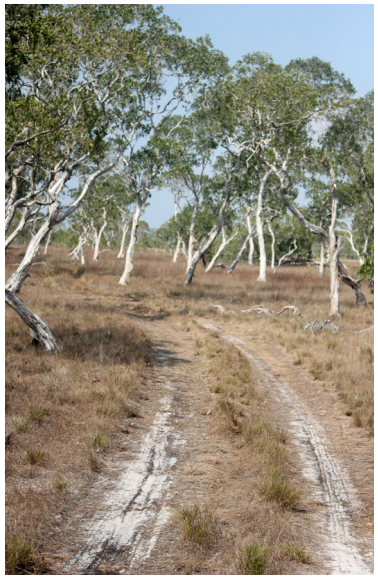
To get there: The Park is approximately 100 kilometres from the provincial town along Highway No. 4 (the Amphoe Takua Pa – Ranong route). Turn right for 5 kilometres at Km. 756. Admission to the park is 100 Baht for adults and 50 Baht for children.

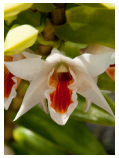
Ko Phra Thong
(เกาะพระทอง)

is in Tambon Ko Phra Thong and a large island in the Andaman Sea, with white sandy beaches and beautiful nature in a serene atmosphere. It is a natural habitat of various kinds of fauna such as deer, boar, hornbill, lesser adjutant, etc. There are fishermen dwelling on the island and also private resorts for tourists.

To get there,

A long-tailed boat for rent is available at Khura Buri Pier, taking about 1 hour.





Water Onion Plant (พลับพลึงธาร)

Plabplung Than, a plant that grows in water, is found nowhere else in the world but the north of Phang Nga and South of Ranong. Today, they are rarely seen and on the verge of extinction. These plants are called locally as “Hua Ya Chong” or “water onions” because the pulp looks like those of the onions. They thrive in wet environment and produce white flowers in the dry season around October to December.

Visitors can see these rare plants at Amphur Kuraburi, in the canals of Uncle Luen’s farmhouse. These plants also indicate the healthiness of the environment because they can thrive only in clean water filled with nutrients; hence the name “Queen of the water”.

ATTRACTIONS

AMPHOE TAKUA PA

อำเภอตะกั่วป่า

Takua Pa Old Town
(เมืองเก่าตะกั่วป่า)

is situated at Ban Talat Yai, Amphoe Takua Pa, and is a former location of Mueang Takua Pa, an old port town in the Ayutthaya period. It used to be very prosperous many decades ago. This large market is interesting for its beautifully constructed Sino-Portuguese buildings. In former times, a large number of Chinese came to work in tin mines and settled here. However, the buildings are mostly dilapidated at present.

Khao Lak – Lam Ru National Park

(อุทยานแห่งชาติเขาหลัก - ลำรู่)

is located 33 kilometres. from Amphoe Takua Pa at Km. 56-57 on the left of Highway No. 4. It was established as a national park in August 1991 and covers a total area of 78,125 rai in Amphoe Takua Pa, Amphoe Thai Mueang, Amphoe Kapong, and Amphoe Mueang Phang-nga. The Park features undulating mountains including Khao Lak, Khao Saeng Thong, Khao Mai Kaeo, and Khao Plai Bang To. The mountains are covered with evergreen forests where several species of flora can be found such as Yang – Dipterocarpus alatus, Phayom – Shorea roxburghii, Malacca teak, Bunnak – Mesua ferria, Takhian Thong – Hopea odorata, Krabak – Anisoptera costata, etc. The highest mountaintop is about 1,077 metres above sea level and is the watershed of the province's major rivers including the Phang-nga and Takua Pa. Frequented fauna are Malayan tapir, tiger, Sumatran serow, monkey, langur, deer, barking deer, great argus pheasant, hornbill, woodpecker, bulbul, and hill myna.

There are 5-kilometres and 7-kilometres Namtok Ton Chong Fa Nature Trails,taking about 2 and 5 hours, respectively. There are nature interpretation signs along the steep routes. A guide is needed. Accommodation and tents are available. For further details, please contact the Khao Lak – Lam Ru National Park, Mu 7 Tambon Khuekkhak, Amphoe Takua Pa, Phang-nga 82110, Tel. 0 7648 5414 or National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation Department, Bangkok Office: Tel. 0 2562 0760 or visit www.dnp.go.th.

Laem Pakarang

(แหลมปะการัง)

is between Km. 78 – 79 on the Takua Pa – Khao Lak Road. From Takua Pa, turn right for 5 kilometres to reach the cape where there is a sandy beach with scattered broken staghorn corals. Swimming is available among the shady atmosphere of the pine trees. It is a nice spot for viewing the setting sun. There is also nice accommodation with a relaxing atmosphere nearby to serve tourist's choices.

Khao Lak Seaside

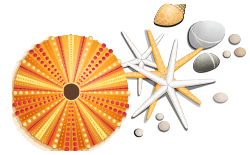
(ชายทะเลเขาหลัก)

is located 32 kilometres from Amphoe Takua Pa and offers another popular seaside attraction. There is a wide sandy beach with rocks of different sizes. The atmosphere is relaxing and suitable for swimming. It is a nice place to admire the setting sun. It is also a location of manyhotels and resorts with designs of accommodation and landscapes that blend harmoniously with the seaside ambience: serene and shady with pine trees and coconut groves on the beach. Its intact nature is gaining popularity among Thai as well as foreign visitors. Opposite the entrance to the Park is situated ***Chaopho Khao Lak Shrine*** **(ศาลเจ้าพ่อเขาหลัก),** which is much revered by villagers.

Namtok Ton Chong Fa

(น้ำตกโตนช่องฟ้า)

is 28 kilometres from Amphoe Takua Pa. It is part of the Khao Lak – Lam Ru National Park, located 5 kilometres from the Park' s headquarters along Phetchakasem Road (the Takua Pa – Khao Lak route). From Takua Pa, turn left at Ban Bang Niang for 5 kilometres toward Wat Phanat Nikhom. There is a stream originated from Khlong Bang Niang and cascades down into a 5-tiered waterfall, with water running all year. Its surrounding area is shady and provides home to rare animals like Malayan tapir, hornbill, and various kinds of birds.



Little Amazon

or Khlong Sang – ne is a canal that has noticed the yard. Get cast at Sang – ne. Two sides canal have Banyan Tree age over than 100 years as well as wildlife. It are covered two Shore canal Sang – ne the way between the canal is beautiful with a panoramic view as ancient forest and discover the different type of bird and animals. This landscape looks like Amazon River in South America, so it is called "Little Amazon".
contact Mr. Aek 080 8897709, 086 6827922

Ko Kho Khao
(เกาะคอเขา)

is another popular marine attraction in the Andaman Sea. Most of the island's topography features plains with shady pine and coconut trees and a white sandy beach stretching for several kilometres. The beach is suitable for swimming. Resorts, bungalows, and food shops are available on the island. To get to Ko Kho Khao, board a boat at Mu 2 Pier, Ban Nam Khem, Tambon Bang Muang, Amphoe Takua Pa. The trip takes about 15 minutes by a hired boat or ferry. There are also several other interesting tourist attractions on the island and nearby, such as:

Mueang Boran Ban Thung Tuek
(เมืองโบราณบ้านทุ่งตึก)

is located on a muddy sand area at Mu 3 Tambon Ko Kho Khao, Amphoe Takua Pa, between the end of Khlong Mueang Thong and that of Khlong Thung Tuek, where the mouth of the Takua Pa River is situated. The ancient town is called "Thung Tuek" due to the fact that there are remains of at least 3 ancient monuments believed to have been buildings – Tuek in Thai, or wihans, over the vast sandy ground of this area.

Fragments of religious shrines and symbolic icons in Hinduism have been discovered. On the ground, there are surface finds such as potsherds of ceramic wares, Chinese ceramics, pottery, as well as other artefacts. According to archaeologists, Thung Tuek must have been a port town in ancient times.

Ko Pha
(เกาะผ้า)

is a small island located at Mu 4 Tambon Ko Kho Khao, some 10 kilometres off the coast. Its crystal clear sea and abundant coral reefs, as well as white and clean sandy beach make it a serene place suitable for relaxation.

Patrol Boat 813

(เรือ ต 813)

Memorial Patrol Boat 813 located at Moo 5, Ban Bang Niang Tambon Kukkak Amphoe Takua Pa, Phang-nga to remembrance event tsunami sweep to attack a patrol boat weight than 60 tons or over 6000 kg up to lie on top of complex area. Distance far from the boat park more than 1 km. after the event is clear; they have retained it as a monument. Remind that once occurred because of natural disaster which bring loss of enormous.

Ban Nam Khem Tsunami Memorial Park

(อนุสรณ์สถานสึนามิบ้านน้ำเค็ม)

The park located on village of Baan Nam Khem (7 kms south of Takuapa), to commemorate those who lost their lives and those who went missing in the December 26 tsunami catastrophe. The development of the Ban Nam Khem Tsunami Memorial Park was carried out on an area of five rai, or two acres, in the compound of Laem Son Beach in Bang Muang Subdistrict, Takua Pa District. The Ban Nam Khem Memorial Park also consists of a memorial walkway, an open space for commemorative events, and a pavilion to appreciate the scenery. There are two buildings, one for showing places of interest and the other for selling local products. Two walls were built along the memorial walkway. One is engraved with the names of those killed in the December 26 tsunami, and the other wall features wave-like curves in black. Two 15-meter-long walls are found at the entrance to the park, with the name Ban Nam Khem Tsunami Memorial Park both in Thai and English.

Fortress Wall

(กำแพงค่าย)

was built by Phraya Senanuchit (Nut), a former governor of Takua Pa, to enclose his residence. It was a model of a fortress wall built from a mixture of gravel, sand, and cement, measuring 58.5 cetimetres thick and 3.8 metres high, not a conventional brick and cement wall. Its shape is rectangular, measuring 95 metres wide and 158 metres long. It was told that when there was a fight between two Chinese Ang Yi or rackets in Takua Pa in 1881, the people came to seek shelter from the fighting inside this fortress wall. The defeated group also took shelter here.

Phraya Senanuchit instructed the gates of the fortress to be closed and he himself, armed with swords, took command of the defensive fight on the battlement at the front of the fortress. Unfortunately, the southern part of the wall on Udom Thara Road has been demolished for a distance of 20 metres in order to widen the road. The wall is now the property of the Na Nakhon Family.

Hat Bang Sak

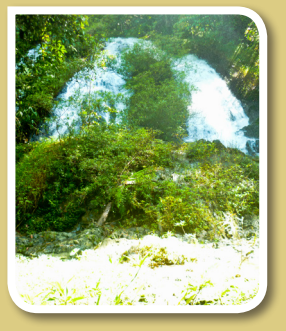
(หาดบางสัก)

is in Tambon Bang Muang on Phetchakasem Road, the Thai Mueang – Takua Pa route. The beach is 100 metres off the highway on the left between Km. 76 – 77. Hat Bang Sak offers a long stretch of white sandy beach running parallel to a line of shady pine trees. It is suitable for swimming. The locals as well as tourists usually come here to admire the setting sun. Accommodation and food shops are available on the beach.

ATTRACTIONS

AMPHOE KAPONG

อำเภอกะปง



Namtok Lam Ru
(น้ำตกลำรู่)

is part of the Khao Lak – Lam Ru National Park located in the area of the Kradai Range. It is a medium waterfall of 5 tiers, with water running all year. It is accessible by Highway No. 4090, 9 kilometres beyond Kapong District Office, and another 1 kilometres from Ban Lam Ru to arrive at the waterfall.

Wat Narayanikaram
(วัดนารายณิการาม)

is located at Mu 3 Tambon Le, approximately 14 kilometres from Kapong District Office on Highway No. 401 (the Takua Pa – Surat Thani route), with a right turn of 2 kilometres to the temple. This is where replicas of Narayana (Rama) and Lakshamana, as well as the original Sida (Sita – consort of Rama) images are enshrined. The original Rama and Lakshamana images are now exhibited at the Thalang National Museum, Amphoe Thalang, Phuket. In addition, an inscription stone of 1,300 – 1,400 years old was unearthed on top of Khao Riang inside the temple's precincts. These sculptures are related to the historical background of "Takola" (former name of Takua Pa) and the introduction of Indian culture into this region.

There are also other waterfalls in the district where local people usually pay a visit for relaxation including Namtok Saeng Thong **(น้ำตกแสงทอง),** which is a small waterfall, and Namtok Hin Lat or Namtok Laeng Hin **(น้ำตกหินลาดหรือน้ำตกแล่งหิน)**, a rocky waterfall with a clear stream.

Rommanee Hot Spring
(น้ำพุร้อนรมณีย์)

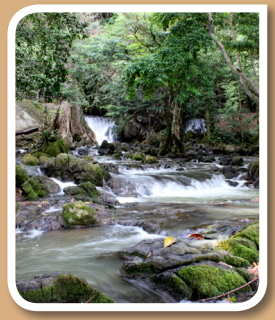
A natural hot spring covering an area of about 4 rais, the pool's water that gushes from beneath the ground carries a temperature between 40-63 Degrees Celsius. Filled with healing minerals, the spring has become a destination where people come to bathe in the hopes to cure certain ailments like cramps, rheumatoid, arthritis or even paralysis.

The spring is opened daily from 08:00-19:30 hrs. Admission fee for Thai nationals is 20 baht and 50 baht for foreigners.

ATTRACTIONS

AMPHOE THAP PUT

อำเภอทับปุด

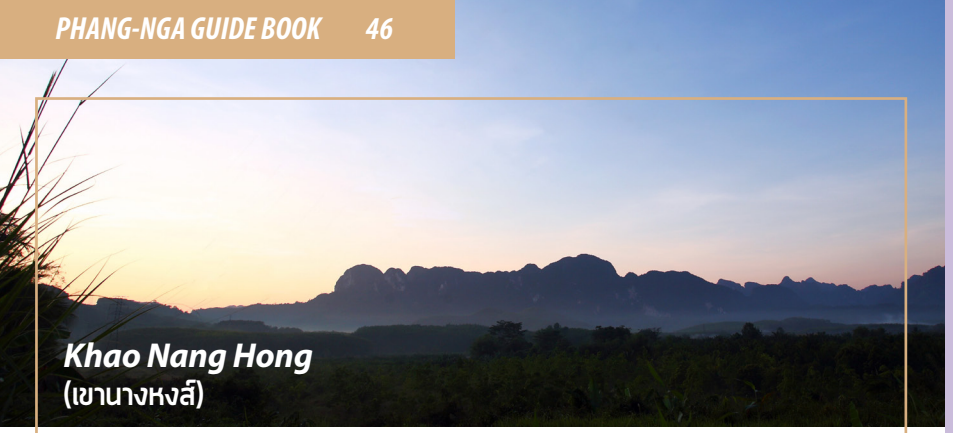


Namtok Tao Thong
(น้ำตกเต่าทอง)

is located at Mu 3 Tambon Bo Saen, 19 kilometres from Phang-nga provincial town and 8 kilometres before reaching Amphoe Thap Put. It is a waterfall that flows from inside a cave and down to a dyke where water is reserved for public use. The surrounding area is shady and suitable for swimming.

Wat Rat Uppatham or Wat Bang Riang
(วัดราษฎร์อุปถัมภ์ หรือ วัดบางเหรียง)

is situated on Khao Lan in Ban Bang Riang, approximately 11 kilometres from Thap Put District Office on Highway No. 4118. The temple houses a bell-shaped chedi surrounded by niches of Buddha images. Wat Rat Uppatham is surrounded by forested mountains. The chedi was called “Phrathat Chedi Thepnimit” and renamed by His Majesty the King as “Phra Mahathat Chedi Phutthathambanlue”.

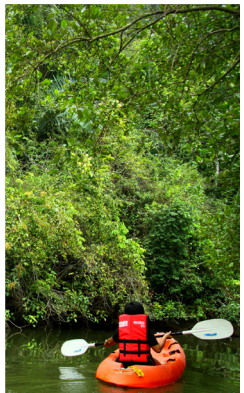


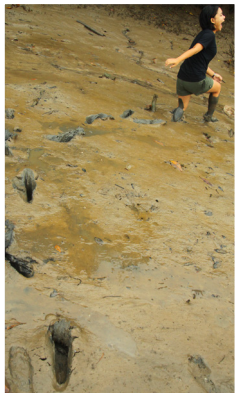
Khao Nang Hong
(เขานางหงส์)

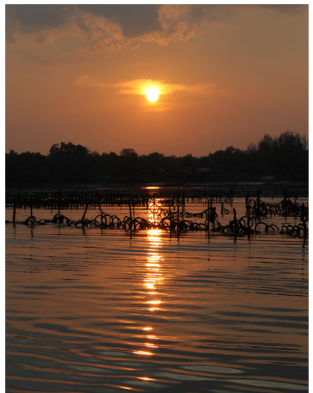
Khao Nang Hong is a tall mountain which separates Muang Phang Nga and Thapput District. Here, visitors can travel up to the viewpoint to see beautiful vistas of Phang Nga. According to legend, Nang Hong was a renowned beauty of Phang Nga. She always dreamed of marrying an equally handsome gentleman which was why she refused to meet all the men who made advances, even the one her father tried to match her with.
She later found out, though, that the man her father had brought was the one she had dreamed of. Realizing this, she went after him but it was too late. Her dream man had lost face and could not forgive her. Nang Hong was too heart-broken so she laid down on her side to die in the forest and thus, her body turned into Nang Hong Mountain.
Khao Nang Hong is in the shape of a woman lying on her side. The spot where Khao Nang Hong is best seen is from Baan Krung Sri in Tambol Noppring located between Taguapa and Phang-Nga Roads. The most magical time to see the mountain is during the morning hours.

Baan Koke Krai
(บ้านโคกไคร)

This destination is one of Phang-Nga's community based tourist attractions composed by homestay accommodation where visitors can learn about the Muslim Thai culture and way of life. Interesting activities here include canoeing to view the herb garden, taking scenic boat rides to Lod Cave, Pee Hua Toh Cave, Phang-Nga Bay, seeing local fishing methods and visiting the large oyster farm where juicy, succulent oysters are produced.
Baan Koke Krai is also home to amazing attractions like the "Hot Beach" which resulted from the split in the earth's crust. At low tide, the remaining sand and silt are still hot so they are taken and used to alleviate muscle cramps and pain. During the fifteenth night of the lunar month, hundreds of thousands of tiny red crabs would come out on the beach. Their presence is one way of determining that the environment is in a healthy condition.







ATTRACTIONS

AMPHOE THAI MUEANG

อำเภอท้ายเหมือง

Khao Lam Pi – Hat Thai Mueang National Park
(อุทยานแห่งชาติเขาลำปี - หาดท้ายเหมือง)

was declared a national park on 14 April, 1986, and covers a total area of 45,000 rai. The national park has 2 sections; namely, the Lam Pi Range which comprises a long stretch of mountains of mostly igneous rocks of 60 – 140 million years old, and Hat Thai Mueang, a white sandy beach on the Andaman Sea. The Lam Pi Range features evergreen forests of plant species like Yang (Dipterocarpus alatus), Takhian Thong (Hopea odorata), Krabak (Anisoptera costata), ferns, rattan, bamboo, etc. The topmost peak is Yot Khao Khamin, which is 622 metres high. Hat Thai Mueang features white sandy beaches in the west and a mangrove forest in the east, where the Park's headquarters is situated. The fauna found within the Park include palm civet, sambar deer, red junglefowl, thick-billed pigeon, etc. Marine life includes stingray, mullet, flying fish, starfish, and small coral reefs.

Namtok Ton Phrai (น้ำตกโตนไพร)

is a massive waterfall originating from Khao Ton Yan Sai. The surrounding forests are shady with large trees.

To get there,
from Amphoe Thai Mueang, take Highway No. 4 and turn right between Km. 28 – 29 for another 7 kilometres.

Namtok Lam Pi (น้ำตกลำปี)

is a medium waterfall of 4 tiers originating from the Lam Pi Range. There is a large basin with water all year round. In the rainy season, it is usually frequented by local people. To get there, from Amphoe Thai Mueang, follow Highway No. 4 and turn right between Km. 32 – 33 for 2 kilometres.

Accommodation: The Park provides 6 bungalows for tourists, each accommodating 5 – 10 persons at 800 – 1,500 Baht and tents for rent for 3 – 5 persons at 450 Baht. A camping fee of 20 Baht / person will be charged for visitors bringing their own tents. There are welfare food shops provided for tourists. For more details, please contact the Khao Lam Pi – Hat Thai Mueang National Park, Amphoe Thai Mueang, Phang-nga 82120, Tel. 0 7641 7206 or National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation Department, Bangkok, Tel. 0 2562 0760 or visit www.dnp.go.th.

To get there: From Phang-nga provincial town, follow the Phang-nga – Thai Mueang Road for 56 kilometres. Turn left at the Talat Thai Mueang Intersection for approximately 6 kilometres to arrive at the Park's headquarters. If travelling by car from Bangkok, take Phetchakasem Road via Amphoe Takua Pa and turn into the Takua Pa – Thai Mueang route for about 66 kilometres to arrive at the Talat Thai Mueang Intersection.

Interesting Attractions within the National Park: Hat Thai Mueang (หาดท้ายเหมือง)

is in the Thai Mueag Sanitary District, with a right turn for 1.5 kilometres and another 5 kilometres along the beach to the location of the Park's headquarters. Hat Thai Mueang features a white sandy beach running parallel to the highway for a distance of more than 13 kilometres and crystal clear sea suitable for swimming. During November – February, sea turtles will come to lay their eggs on the beach. As such, there is an activity to watch spawning sea turtles on the nights of the waxing moon. During March every year when the eggs are hatched, the baby sea turtles will be released into the sea in a tradition called the "Sea Turtle Releasing Festival".

Khao Na Yak (Troll Face Mountain) of Baan Tha Dindaeng (เขาหน้ายักษ์ บ้านท่าดินแดง)

Khao Na Yak's history dates way back to World War 2. According to legend, this side of the mountain resembles that of a troll's face but later, a part of it was shot off. The villagers, though, believe that the troll looks after them and keeps the village safe from harm. Khao Na Yak is a part of Khao Lam Pi – Hat Thai Mueang National Park. Visitors can enjoy snorkeling, taking scenic boat rides through the mangrove forest and view rare plant species and just lie back to enjoy the beautiful sceneries all around.

Getting There: Visitors can catch a local boat from the nearest village, Tha Dindaeng, or from Thap Lamu Pier which will take you through a series of interesting sights.

Thung Samet (ทุ่งเสม็ด)

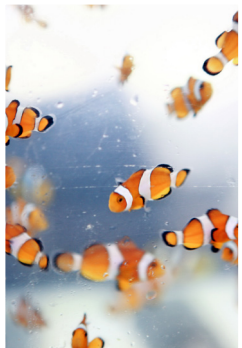
is a cajuput forest covering an area of 1,000 rai located in the middle of Hat Thai Mueang. It features white powdery sand.

Sea Turtle Nursery, Third Fleet of the Royal Thai Fleet
(บ่ออนุบาลเต่า กองทัพเรือภาค 3)

is near the Chulabhorn Marine Park Conservatory Centre. This is one of the important sea turtle nursery and breeding centres on the Andaman coast. Green turtle, hawksbill turtle, and Ridley's turtle are bred here. It is open on weekdays and during official hours.

Phang-nga Coastal Fisheries Research and Development Center
(ศูนย์วิจัยและพัฒนาประมงชายฝั่งพังงา)

Located at Thai Mueang Beach with the aim to research and development coastal aquaculture. Especially, there are many type aquatic interesting such Clownfish, Seabass, Giant grouper, Marine shrimp. Dog conch, Grape seaweed or green caviar including Aquatic Conservation such as Giant Clam, Sea turtle. In front of the center is the source area the egg of the Leatherback turtle. The center will nursing them strongly before dropping back to nature. Open to tourists visiting from 09.00 – 16.30 hrs. The tourist can take part in sea turtle conservation species by donation in the donation box in the center, for more information, please contact Phang-nga Coastal Fisheries Research and Development Center, Tel. 0 864794217



ATTRACTIONS

AMPHOE TAKUA THUNG

อำเภออำเภอตะกั่วทุ่ง

Hundred-Year Old Banyan Tree Forest of Charoentham Temple (ป่าไทรร้อยปี วัดเก่าเจริญธรรม)

This ancient temple located in Baan Krasome is home to the highly revered statue of Luang Por Tuad. At the back of the temple you will find several hundred-year old Banyan Trees which subsequently became the name of this place, The Hundred Year-Old Banyan Tree Forest of Charoentham Temple.This forest is filled with large and small Banyan trees and their web of thin vines. Some even have 'Bird's Nest Ferns' growing on them. The entire atmosphere is cool and serene as it should be because the area is a place where Buddhists come to practice meditation.

Sam Chong Tai (สามช่องใต้)

Baan Sam Chong is situated in Tambol Galai, Tagua Tung District. Sam Chong which means '3 channels' is from the three streams namely Klong Tah Yoo, Klong Bang Lam and Klong Tah Jor. This village is renowned for the most beautiful sunrise which shines its shimmering rays onto the limestone mountains.

Visitors can also learn about the villagers' methods of fishery and their grouper and snapper farming, visit the nature-inspired oyster farm and taste delicious and fresh seafood. From here, you can also hire a boat to the middle of Phang Nga Bay to watch the romantic sunrise then later go further down around the outlying islands.

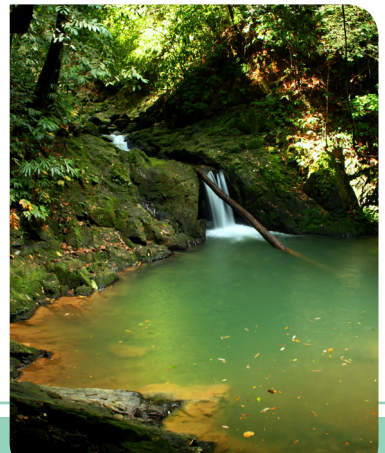
Wat Suwannakhuha
(วัดสุวรรณคูหา)

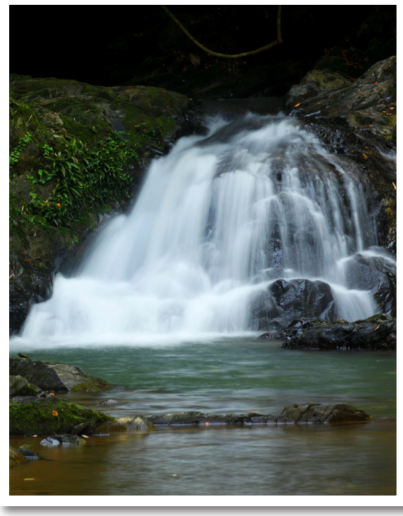
is located at Mu 2 Tambon Krasom, about 9 kilometres from Phang-nga provincial town on Highway No. 4 (the Phang-nga – Phuket route). At Km. 30, there is a paved road on the right leading for 1 kilometres to the temple. Wat Suwannakhuha is known locally as "Wat Tham" – a cave temple. It is one of the province's important temples due to its historical and archaeological background. The temple is located on a mountain with a number of caves. Among them are Tham Yai, Tham Chaeng, Tham Muet, and Tham Kaeo. Tham Yai is on the lowest level and decorated with ceramic tiles and crockery throughout its length. This cave serves as a wihan where several Buddha images are enshrined. The most important one is the Reclining Buddha. In another cave, there are royal initials of kings and members of the royal family, such as King Rama V the Great, King Rama VII and Queen Rambhaibarni, King Rama IX the Great, etc. The area in front of the cave is the feeding ground of a large number of monkeys. Admission is 10 Baht.

Namtok Raman Forest Park
(วนอุทยานน้ำตกรามัญ)

is located in Tambon Krasom within the area of the Khao Ton Din National Forest Reserve, covering an area of approximately 125 rai. The Forest Park features a medium-sized waterfall with water running all year. The waterfall was named "Namtok Raman" after the fact that a number of Mon or Raman people fled the Burmese troops to settle on its topmost level during the so-called 'Nine-army Battle'. Its headwater comprises mountain ranges covered with almost intact evergreen forests. The touristic area of the Forest Park features a medium-sized stream running from the watershed down to the valley. Various tiers of the waterfall result from the different elevations of the area that the stream flows by. There are also various species of fauna such as Sumatran serow, Malayan tapir – a reserved species of fauna, soft-shelled turtle, rasbora, soro brook carp, and tiger fish. The Forest Park also provides a nature trail.

In addition to Namtok Raman, there are many other tiers of the streams such as ***Ton Tai*** **(โตนใต้)** – the lowest tier otherwise known as Tin Lang, ***Ton Khon Pak*** **(โตนขอนปัก)** – a medium basin with a certain depth suitable for swimming, ***Ton Ai Chun*** **(โตนไอ้จุ่น)** – similar to the second one and suitable for swimming all year round,





Ton Klang **(โตนกลาง)** – featuring quite a high and beautiful cascade suitable for bathing underneath the falling water, ***Ton Hin Rao*** **(โตนหินราว)** – a very deep basin, and ***Ton Sao Ngam*** **(โตนสาวงาม)** – the last beautiful tier.

Accommodation:

There are no bungalows provided except for a camping site. However, visitors will have to bring their own tents, sleeping gear and camping equipment. The welfare shop is open during 9.00 a.m. – 4.30 p.m. To get there: By car, from Phang-nga, take Highway No. 4 (Phetchakasem Road) toward Tambon Krasom. It is approximately 11 kilometres from the provincial town with a left turn into the forest park. By bus, a bus is available for a chartered trip at the market in Amphoe Mueang Phang-nga.

ATTRACTIONS

AMPHOE KO YAO

อำเภอเกาะยาว

***Ko Yao* (เกาะยาว)**
covers an area of approximately 137.6 square kilometres. Most of its dwellers are Thai Muslim. Ko Yao comprises 2 main islands; namely, Ko Yao Noi and Ko Yao Yai, surrounded by small islets. Interesting beaches and bays include:

Hat Pa Sai
(หาดป่าทราย)
is about 7 kilometres from the Ko Yao District Office which is located on Ko Yao Noi. It features a white sandy beach with shady trees, suitable for swimming. A scenic view of various islands of Krabi province can be seen.

Hat Tha Khao
(หาดท่าเขา)
is about 5 kilometres from the Ko Yao Noi District Office. The beach is dotted with pebbles of various patterns. Slightly off the shore, there are small islets that are accessible at low tide. These islets house forest trees and orchids.

Ao Ti Kut
(อ่าวตีกุด)
is on Ko Yao Yai and features a clean white beach. To the north, there is a cape with beautiful scenery. The shore is shady with pine trees.

Ao Khlong Son
(อ่าวคลองสน)
is on Ko Yao Yai and offers a clean white shady beach with pine trees. To the left, there are rocks and pebbles of beautiful colours. The inlet is suitable for swimming and diving to admire the coral reefs.

Ao Lan
(อ่าวล้าน)
is on Ko Yao Yai and offers a scenic beach suitable for swimming. To the north, there is a steep cliff. It is most conveniently accessible by boat.

Ao Sai
(อ่าวทราย)
is on Ko Yao Yai and offers a white powdery beach, suitable for swimming.

Ao Hin Kong
(อ่าวหินกอง)
is on Ko Yao Yai and features a shady beach where Khiam trees - Cotylelobium lanceolatum – are grown. It is a habitat of baby stingrays, not suitable for swimming. There are Muslim fishermen living here.

Ao Lo Pa Raet
(อ่าวโละปาแรด)

is on Ko Yao Yai and features a shady beach with coconut groves. The white powdery beach stretches for a long distance. To the north, there is a cape of beautiful rocks suitable for swimming.

Laem Nok Ok
(แหลมนกออก)

is on Ko Yao Yai and features a rocky beach with colourful pebbles, suitable for swimming.

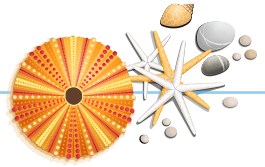
In addition, homestay accommodation is available both on Ko Yao Yai and Ko Yao Noi. Visitors can enjoy while learning the folk way of living and daily activities such as fishing, clam catching, and biking along a nature trail. For more information, please contact the Ko Yao Noi Ecotourism Club, Bang Rong Pier, Tel. 0 7659 7244, or Khun Samroeng Rakhet, Tel. 08 1968 0877, or Ko Yao Noi Subdistrict Administration Organization, Tel. 0 7659 7122, or visit www.homestaykohyaonoi.com. Private run accommodation is also available.

To get there: Ko Yao Noi and Ko Yao Yai are accessible from Phuket, Phang-nga, and Krabi provinces. However, it is most convenient to get there from Phuket.

To Get to Ko Yao Noi

From Phuket: Boats leave from Bang Rong Pier, Tambon Pa Khlok, Amphoe Thalang, to Ko Yao Noi, Manoh Pier 15 times daily at 07.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. Boats depart Ko Yao Noi for Bang Rong Pier 14 times daily at 06.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. The fare for regular boat is 120 Baht / person / trip. The trip takes approximately 60 minutes. The fare for speed boat is 200 baht. The trip takes approximately 30 minutes. A charter long-tail boat is also available at 1,500 – 3,000 Baht. Speed boats of various sizes are available to be chartered at 6,000 – 8,000 Baht / trip.

From Krabi: Boats leave Tha Len Pier in Amphoe Mueang Krabi, to Tha Khao Pier 10 times daily at 09.00 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. The trip takes 45 minutes and the fare is 150 Baht/ trip. From Tha Len Pier, visitors may take a Song Thaeo to catch the bus at the Krabi Bus Terminal. The trip takes 1 hour and costs 40 Baht each. In addition, Speed Boat is also available at Nopparat Thara Beach from November – June. Boats leave at 11.00 a.m. to Manoh Pier. The Trip take approximately 30 minutes. Boat depart from Koh Yao Noi to Nopparat Thara Beach at 3.30 p.m. The fare is 650 baht/person/trip. Reservation can be made through the Green Planet Travel, Tel 0 7563 7488, 080-5261001



From Phang-nga: A boat leaves the Customs Office Pier to Ko Yao Noi (Manoh Pier or Sukhaphiban Pier – depending on the tide) once a day at 1.00 p.m. A boat departs Ko Yao Noi to the Customs Office Pier at 7.30 a.m. The trip takes approximately 1½ hours and the fare is 200 Baht (not operate on Sunday).

A charter boat for 10 - 12 persons is available at approximately 5,000 Baht at the Customs Office Pier.

To Get to Ko Yao Yai

From Phuket:

Ferry depart from Chinwanich Pier to Yao Yai Island (Lo Chak Pier) at 08.30 a.m., 10.30 a.m., 02.00 p.m. and 05.00 p.m. The fare is 140 baht/person/trip. The trip take 1 hour and the speed boat available at 05.00 p.m. The fare is 200 baht/person/trip. The trip take ½ hour. From Koh Yao Yai , boat leave from Lo Chak Pier to Chinwanich Pier at 07.15 a.m., 08.00 a.m., 02.00 p.m. and 03.00 p.m.

Ferry depart from Laemhin Pier to Ko Yao Yai (Laemyai Pier) at 01.00 p.m. The fare is 140 baht/person/trip. The trip take 1 hour. From Ko Yao Yai, boat leave from Laemyai Pier to Laemhin Pier at 08.00 a.m.

From Ko Yao Noi: Board the boat at Mano Pier to Ban Chong Lat Pier or Khlong Hia Pier on Ko Yao Yai. The boats leave during 6.00 a.m. – 6.00 p.m., taking 10 minutes. The fare is 20 Baht each.

Ko Khai
(เกาะไข่)

comprises 2 islets called Ko Khai Nok and Ko Khai Nai, both featuring white sandy beaches and crystal clear sea, with colourful fish swimming near the shore and beautiful coral reefs.

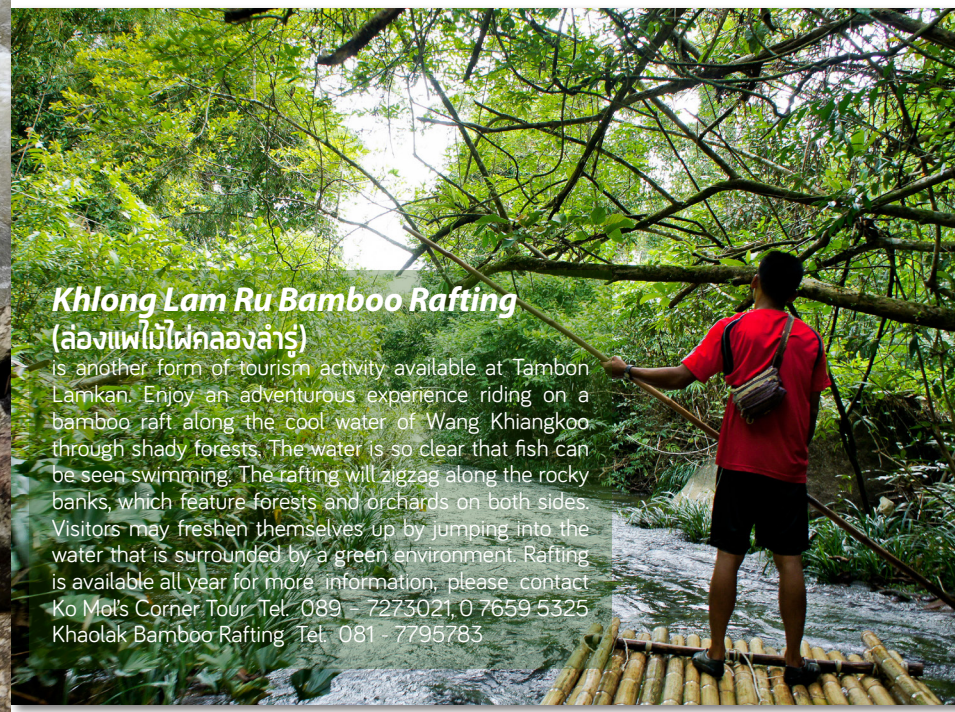
To get there:

a package tour is offered by travel agencies. Otherwise, rent a boat from Ko Sire Pier, Laem Hin Pier, or Ao Chalong in Phuket.

Tourism Activities

Namtok Ton Pariwat White-water Rafting
(ล่องแก่งน้ำตกโตนปริวรรต)

is another exciting and adventurous activity along large and small rapids of strong and rushing currents through verdant forests. This activity is available throughout the year.



Khlong Lam Ru Bamboo Rafting
(ล่องแพไม้ไผ่คลองลำรู)

is another form of tourism activity available at Tambon Lamkan. Enjoy an adventurous experience riding on a bamboo raft along the cool water of Wang Khiangkoo through shady forests. The water is so clear that fish can be seen swimming. The rafting will zigzag along the rocky banks, which feature forests and orchards on both sides. Visitors may freshen themselves up by jumping into the water that is surrounded by a green environment. Rafting is available all year for more information, please contact Ko Mol's Corner Tour Tel. 089 - 7273021, 0 7659 5325 Khaolak Bamboo Rafting Tel. 081 - 7795783

Events and Festivals

"Ko Panyi Traditional Long Boat Races"
(งานแข่งขันเรือยาวประเพณีเกาะปันหยี)

is held annually in March (depending on the tide levels) at Phang-nga Provincial Administration Organisation's Pier with the aim to preserve the local traditional and culture as well as to promote tourism in Phang-nga Bay. Apart from the long boat races, which are the highlight, other festive sports such as boats with five paddlers, paddling boats, canoes, kayaks, "Pris" boats, whitewater boats etc. For further information, please contact Ko Panyi Sub-district administration Organisation, Tel. 0 7644 0425 ext. 11.

"Krasom Traditional Long Boat Races"
(งานประเพณีแข่งขันเรือยาวเทศบาลตำบลกระโสม)

is held annually in December (depending on the tide levels) at Surakul Pier, Takua Thung district with the aim to preserve the local traditions. In addition, creating love and unity, encouraging the stable community, supporting the job and the tourism occur in the community as well. For further information, please contact Krasom Municipality, Tel.0 7649 6501.

Sea Turtle Releasing Festival
(งานประเพณีปล่อยเต่า)

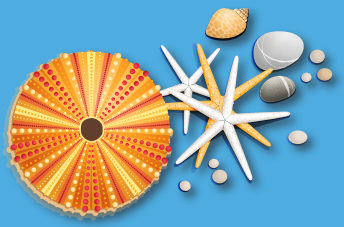
is scheduled to take place for 7 days in March every year. There will be celebrations, and the major activity is the release of baby sea turtles into the sea around Hat Thai Mueang.

"Phang-nga Vegetarian Festival"
(งานประเพณีถือศีลกินผักจังหวัดพังงา)

is scheduled between the 1st – 9th days of the waxing moon of the 9th Chinese lunar month, which falls in September – October every year. During the festival, villagers clad in white will receive alms at Chinese shrines. Other activities include a fire-wading ceremony, a ceremony to pay respect to the stars for the 7 days of the week, ill fortune-dispelling ceremony, etc. There will be a procession of gods along the roads around the town as a token to give a blessing to the people.

Useful Telephone
(หมายเลขโทรศัพท์สำคัญ)

Phang-nga Immigration	Tel. 0 7646 0512,1178
Phuket Tourist Police	Tel. 0 7622 3891,1155
Muang Phangnga Police Station	Tel. 0 7641 2073
Takua pa Police Station	Tel. 0 7642 1113
Thai Mueang Police Station	Tel. 0 7657 1799
Phang-nga Hospital	Tel. 0 7641 1618-9
Takua pa Hospital	Tel. 0 7658 4250
Thai Mueang Hospital	Tel. 0 7657 1505-6
Emergency Call	Tel. 191
Phang-nga Public Relation Office	Tel. 0 7641 1388
Highway Police	Tel. 1193
TAT Tourist Hotline	Tel. 1672
Phang-nga Meteorological Department	Tel. 1182, 0 7648 6494
Telephone Number Inquiry	Tel. 1133
Post Office	Tel. 0 7641 2171 - 2
Phuket International Airport	Tel. 0 7635 1111
Krabi International Airport	Tel. 0 7563 6541-2



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TOURISM AUTHORITY OF THAILAND (TAT)
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Phang Nga 82000
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E-mail: tatphangnga@tat.or.th
www.facebook.com/tatphangnga